

PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A Creekwise Approach

There are six creeks within the Town of Los Altos Hills and these creeks border along many residential properties. Make the most of your location next to a creek by helping to keep it healthy.

Use creekwise gardening and landscaping practices

- Never dispose of lawn clippings in a creek or on a creek bank. Soil and lawn clippings disposed in creeks become unsightly, destroy aquatic habitats, and cause diseases in trees.



Planning Director Carl Cahill

Take invasive species out - put local native species in

- Native plants and trees, which specialize in growing within a creek corridor, provide important habitat value unlike many exotic plants.

Pave only when necessary

- If you are planning to construct walkways, patios, driveways, or storm water drains, consider alternatives with permeable surfaces to allow more rainwater to soak into the ground.

Build away from the creek

- Avoid locating structures such as decks, patios and storage sheds near the creek bank. (The Town of Los Altos Hills requires all structures including patios and decks to be setback at least 25-feet from the top of the creek bank)

Check for erosion regularly and correct problems promptly

- Be sure to seek professional advice and a permit from the water district before taking action. A Site Development Permit from the Town is also required for most projects undertaken near creeks.

"A Creekwise Wise approach" is reprinted with permission of the Santa Clara Valley Water District. www.valleywater.org

— Carl Cahill, Planning Director

LAH County Fire District FREE BRUSH CHIPPING PROGRAM

(Your tax dollars working for you!)

The Los Altos Hills County Fire District is offering all residents a free service of chipping and disposal of brush and prunings. This program has been very successful.

The Town has been divided into 6 separate areas. Starting in late February through May, each designated area of the Town will be notified of the service by a letter containing a postcard to return informing the contractor of your request to have the service.

Here is how it works: During the spring and early summer the District's contractor will be in your neighborhood available to chip brush and tree prunings that you have cut and stacked on your property. Chips will be left with you or the contractor will take them. If you want the free service, you will need to plan to do your pruning and make an appointment with the contractor.

The Fire District encourages you to take advantage of this free assistance to make your home more defensible against a wildfire fire.

- All flammable vegetation should be cleared a minimum of 30 feet around structures.
- Tree limbs should be cut within 10 feet of chimneys.
- Trees that are 18 feet or taller should be limbed 6 feet above the ground.

The Fire District contractor is S. P. McClenahan Co. They will perform the service during the spring and early summer. **Remember, the postcard must be returned to the S.P. McClenahan Co. for this service to be scheduled.** The contractor will call to schedule an appointment with you for the brush chipping service.

The LAH County Fire District services are provided by the Santa Clara County Fire Department.



Los Altos Hills Historical Exhibit

The Town of Los Altos Hills was born out of need to be an independent city - preserving its uniqueness within the Santa Clara Valley as a beautiful rural community with peaceful vistas of rolling foothills and natural open space.

The goal of the Town's 50th Anniversary Historical Display is to present all the threads of the events and people that have formed this community over the decades and weave them into a cohesive narrative and visual tapestry that reflects our unique heritage, values, and personalities. It serves not only as a tribute to its residents but it also serves as a valuable, historical record of a town that has quietly and tacitly changed through those decades.

The display is available to all residents, families, and groups that seek to have a deeper understanding about the legacy and the evolution of Los Altos Hills.

You are invited to view the display and the video, "The Treasures of Los Altos Hills" at Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road; Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - Noon; 1 PM-5:30 PM.